



Master in Geography : General

Focus Urban studies (ULB-VUB)

Programme mnemonic

MA-GEOG

> Focus *Urban studies (ULB-VUB)*: M-GEOGE

Exists also in

- > Focus *Teaching*: M-GEOGD
- > Focus *Erasmus Mundus Urban studies*: M-GEOGM
- > Focus *territorial Development*: M-GEOGT

Studies level

Master 120 credits

Learning language

english

Schedule

office hours

Studies category / subcategory

Sciences and technics / Sciences

Campus

Plaine and Solbosch

Programme's added value

Master in Urban Studies bridges disciplinary limitations by combining sociology, geography, history, cultural studies, and humanistic urban studies while providing students with an array of means and methods for analysing and understanding the specific character of cities. Academic courses are supplemented with fieldwork and excursions, reframing The City as a dynamic, immersive learning laboratory.

Teaching methods

The common core contains a course on Brussels, one on the European dimension of cities and urbanisation, and a number of theoretical courses introducing you to the field of urban studies. By using Brussels as a unique case study in the programme and by organising various site visits in and around Brussels and excursions to cities in Europe, we benefit from our location in the centre of Europe. The common core also contains two modules introducing you to various urban methods and research approaches. Please see <http://urbanstudies.brussels/master/programme> for detailed information

Succeed in your studies

The multifaceted complexity of cities is difficult to grasp, and so the Master in Urban Studies takes a holistic and immersive approach. Theory and practice are seen as mirrors, each critically reflecting the other. The city is engaged as an evolving narrative, more dialogic than linear, and students learn to see "The City" as manifold and emergent, to hear it, to participate in it, and to understand it, all while experimenting with their role in shaping it. While this obviously requires a high degree of independence and self-reliance, students must also be cooperative and collaborative.

Programme objectives

The Master in Urban Studies is a 120 ECTS programme jointly offered by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB). Offering an interdisciplinary perspective on urban studies, students follow a core trajectory of shared courses and have the freedom to specialize by individually selecting from a large offer of elective modules and courses.

Succeed in your studies

Choose

The information and guidance counsellors at the InfOR-études [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>] service will help you choose your studies throughout the year.

Succeed

Take part in preparatory courses [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>] or get help to succeed [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>], before or during your studies.

Get help

Apply for financial aid, look for accommodation or a student job, get support [<https://www.ulb.be/fr/aides-services-et-accompagnement/aid-services-and-support-1>] for your specific needs.





International/Openness

In the second year of your studies, it is possible to go abroad for a semester and study at one of our partner universities. We currently have Erasmus exchange agreements with the following universities: Universität Wien; Charles University Prague; University of Tartu; Aalto University; Université Paris Pantheon Sorbonne; Université de Lille; Sciences Po Bordeaux, HafenCity Universität Hamburg; Bauhaus-Universität Weimar; RWTH Aachen; Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main; Eötvös Loránd University Budapest; University of Milano-Bicocca; Université de Luxembourg; Universiteit van Amsterdam; Universiteit Utrecht; University of Oslo; NTNU Trondheim; Gdańsk University of Technology; University of Warsaw; Universitat de Barcelona; Göteborgs Universitet; KTH Stockholm; Lunds Universitet; Malmö Universitet; Université de Lausanne; Universität Bern

Job opportunities


Master in Urban Studies students are not trained for one specific profession, but an education in urban studies ensures that

you develop the right skills and mindset to tackle important urban challenges. Our graduates continue as PhD researchers at universities across the world and find work in non-profits and NGOs, consultancy firms, government administrations in urban policy and planning.

Contacts

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 <https://urbanstudies.brussels/education/msc-urban-studies/msc-urban-studies>

Jury President

Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN

Jury Secretary

Eléonore WOLFF



Master in Geography : General

Focus Urban studies (ULB-VUB)

The Master in Geography includes three distinct focuses: **territorial development, teaching, and urban studies**. While they each cover specific contents, these focuses are built around a shared philosophy: enabling students to **acquire the knowledge and methods required to analyse spatial questions while developing their intellectual curiosity and their critical perspective**. To this end, particular emphasis is placed on **active learning, field work, and work placements**. The Master in Geography takes advantage of the University's **location in Brussels**, encouraging students to reflect on current issues of the city.

The Master with a focus on **'territorial development'** is devoted to analysing the structure of territories, their transformations, and development projects at various scales. Particular emphasis is placed on the economic, social, and political dimensions of territorial issues. From a methodological perspective, the programme covers the production, management, analysis, and diffusion of optimal geographical data, with a view to helping students work autonomously. Courses in this focus include lectures on specific topics (political geography, analysis of urban spaces, cultural geography, etc.) and methods (remote sensing, geomarketing, database management, etc.). In addition to lecture classes, students attend seminars where they can work on practical projects in small teams, under supervision. Students complete their curriculum with electives chosen from a wide range of courses in areas such as urban studies, mobility, transportation, tourism, environmental studies, or development.

The Master with a **teaching focus** prepares students to teach geography. Its main purpose is to train skilled teachers who can get students interested in the richness and significance of geographical issues in relation to understanding the world and living as a citizen. Graduates of the teaching focus receive the official title of 'agrégé' (AESS): only graduates of this programme—and holders of an AESS—may teach geography in secondary schools in Belgium. This programme includes courses on geography and didactics, as well as work placements involving teaching in a school environment. This approach blends theory and practice, with field experience, micro-teaching exercises, lesson preparations, organising a school trip, etc., always keeping in mind the creative and rewarding aspects of teaching.

The Master with a focus on **urban studies (Erasmus Mundus programme)** is fully integrated into an international urban studies programme, given entirely in English: the 4Cities Master, organised jointly by universities in Brussels (ULB and VUB), Vienna, Copenhagen, and Madrid (Universidad Complutense and Universidad Autonoma). Students attend common classes in English during both years of the Master, in Brussels and Vienna for the first year, and in Copenhagen and Madrid the second year. Since 2013, this Master has been part of the Erasmus Mundus programme. Enrolment is subject to certain criteria: applications must be sent to the team coordinating the 4Cities programme (see www.4cities.eu).

The Master in Geography with a focus on urban studies is fully given in English, in Brussels. Classes are held at both ULB and VUB, with students receiving a joint degree upon graduation. This gives them access to a wide range of classes on urban studies (with many electives that let them specialise in topics of interest), as well as to field visits and the opportunity to complete an international work placement or a semester abroad. Please note that this programme is subject to specific access requirements. For more information, visit the programme's website: <https://urbanstudies.brussels/education/msc-urban-studies/msc-urban-studies>

Bloc 1 | M-GEOGE | MA-GEOG

Tronc commun - Cours obligatoires - Bloc 1 (20 crédits)

- GEOG-F428 **Urban political economy** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN (Coordinator)
 ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, project: 40h] 📅 first term 🗨 English
- GEOG-F433 **Brussels, reading the city** | Benjamin WAYENS (Coordinator), Serge JAUMAIN and Joost VAESEN
 ⌚ 5 credits [seminars: 24h, field trips: 12h, project: 24h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English
- GEOG-F434 **Excursions** | Benjamin WAYENS (Coordinator) and Bas VAN HEUR
 ⌚ 4 credits [seminars: 6h, field trips: 80h] 📅 second term 🗨 French
- GEOG-Y021 **Urban social geography**
 ⌚ 6 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

Cours spécifiques - Bloc 1 (20 crédits)

- GEOG-F429 **Urban analysis II** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN (Coordinator)
 ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 12h, project: 80h] 📅 first term 🗨 English
- GEOG-Y008 **European Cities in an Urbanizing World** | Bas VAN HEUR
 ⌚ 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term
- GEOG-Y023 **Urban analysis I**
 ⌚ 3 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 12h, project: 12h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

GEOG-Y052 [Research design and methodology in urban studies](#)

🕒 3 credits 📅 second term

GEOG-Y053 [StadsSalonsUrbains](#)

🕒 3 credits [lecture: 75h] 📅 first and second terms

Tronc commun - Cours optionnels - Bloc 1 (20 crédits)

Choisir 2 modules complets parmi les modules suivants, à répartir entre le Bloc 1 et 2. Pour arriver à un total de 60 à 64 crédits maximum, choisir entre 20 et 24 ECTS.

20 to 24 credits chosen from the following

Module 1 - Urban History

GEOG-Y027
(optional)

[Urban Archeology](#)

🕒 6 credits 📅 second term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y049
(optional)

[Urban History](#)

🕒 6 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y066
(optional)

[History of Migration](#)

🕒 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Module 2 - Urban Criminology

GEOG-Y028
(optional)

[Criminological encounters](#)

🕒 6 credits 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

GEOG-Y072
(optional)

[Crime & City](#)

🕒 9 credits [personal assignments: 250h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Module 3 - Urban Geography

GEOG-Y030
(optional)

[Economic and Financial Geography](#)

🕒 6 credits 📅 second term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y062
(optional)

[Housing](#)

🕒 3 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y067
(optional)

[Greening the City](#)

🕒 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

Module 4 - Urban Architecture

ARCH-H406
(optional)

[Post-war history of construction and architecture](#) | Rika DEVOS (Coordinator)

🕒 4 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 36h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

ARCH-H502
(optional)

[Theory of architecture and urbanism](#) | Ahmed Zaib KHAN MAHSUD (Coordinator)

🕒 4 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y033
(optional)

[Architectural and Construction History](#)

🕒 4 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y034
(optional)

[Theoretical Reflections on Monument Care](#)

🕒 3 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

Module 5 - Urban Planning and Mobility

GEOG-Y035
(optional)

[Sustainable Mobility and Logistics](#) | Joeri VAN MIERLO (Coordinator) and Cathy MACHARIS

🕒 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y036
(optional)

[Land Use Planning and Growth Management](#)

🕒 6 credits 📅 second term 🗨 English

URBA-H500
(optional)

[Infrastructure and Mobility](#) | Philippe BOUILLARD (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 12h, field trips: 30h, personal assignments: 30h] 📅 second term 🗨 English



Module 6 - Urban Design I

ARCH-H400
(optional)

Sustainable urban Design Studio | Ahmed Zaib KHAN MAHSUD (Coordinator) and Hera Van Sande

⌚ 8 credits [workshop: 240h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y037
(optional)

Theory of Urban Planning and Design

⌚ 3 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

One course chosen from the following

PROJ-P4311
(optional)

Projet d'architecture 4.11 : UN - Urban Nature | Mar Nadia CASABELLA ALVAREZ (Coordinator) and Axel FISHER

⌚ 10 credits [project: 120h] 📅 second term 🗨 English/French

PROJ-P4311
(optional)

Projet d'architecture 4.11 : UN - Urban Nature | Mar Nadia CASABELLA ALVAREZ (Coordinator) and Axel FISHER

⌚ 10 credits [project: 120h] 📅 first term 🗨 English/French

URBA-P9006
(optional)

Atelier urbanisme - Bruxelles | Geoffrey Grulois (Coordinator) and Yves ROUYET

⌚ 10 credits [project: 144h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Module 7 - Urban Design II

GEOG-Y063
(optional)

Design Studio B option 4022175EN (day)

⌚ 15 credits [seminars: 36h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

Module 8 - Internship

GEOG-F432
(optional)

Internship | Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN (Coordinator) and Benjamin WAYENS

⌚ 15 credits [work placement: 450h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

Autres cours

Au besoin, choisir un ou des cours dans la liste suivante afin d'arriver à un total de 60 crédits, 64 au maximum, moyennant l'approbation du jury

GEOG-Y046
(optional)

History of Urban Design

⌚ 3 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y047
(optional)

Landscape Urbanism

⌚ 3 credits 📅 second term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y064
(optional)

Advanced seminar in Urban studies A

⌚ 3 credits [seminars: 24h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

GEOG-Y065
(optional)

Advanced seminar in Urban studies B

⌚ 6 credits [seminars: 48h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

GEOG-Y068
(optional)

Introduction to GIS

⌚ 3 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

GEOG-Y069
(optional)

Decision Support Systems for Sustainability

⌚ 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French

GEOG-Y070
(optional)

Decolonial visions and urban geographies

⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 36h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

PROJ-H502
(optional)

Design project competition | Philippe BOUILLARD (Coordinator) and Vincent GERIN

⌚ 4 credits [seminars: 30h, project: 90h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

SOCA-D455
(optional)

Sociologie des mobilités | Pierre LANNOY (Coordinator)

⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Ce cours ne sera pas donné en 2021-2022

Formation complémentaire

Au besoin, choisir un ou des cours dans la liste suivante afin d'arriver à un total de 60 crédits, moyennant l'approbation du jury

TEMP-0000
(optional)

Cours extérieurs au programme

🕒 3 credits 📅 academic year 🗨️ French



Master in Geography : General

Focus Urban studies (ULB-VUB)

Bloc 2 | M-GEOGE | MA-GEOG

Tronc commun - Cours obligatoires - Bloc 2 (30 crédits)

MEMO-F540 **Masters thesis**
 ⌚ 30 credits [mfe/tfe: 600h] 📅 first and second terms

Cours spécifiques - Bloc 2 (10 crédits)

GEOG-F427 **Urban sociology** | Eva SWYNGEDOUW (Coordinator)
 ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, project: 40h] 📅 first term 🗣️ English

URBA-H9009 **Urban Sustainability and circular Economy** | Ahmed Zaib KHAN MAHSUD (Coordinator) and Aristide ATHANASSIADIS
 ⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 24h, personal assignments: 30h] 📅 first term 🗣️ English

Tronc commun - Cours optionnels - Bloc 2 (20 crédits)

Choisir 2 modules complets parmi les modules suivants à répartir entre le Bloc 1 et 2. Pour arriver à un total de 60 à 64 crédits maximum,

Pour arriver à un total de 60 à 64 crédits maximum,
 choisir entre 20 ECTS et 48 ECTS

20 to 48 credits chosen from the following

Module 1 - Urban History

GEOG-Y027 **Urban Archeology**
 (optional) ⌚ 6 credits 📅 second term 🗣️ English

GEOG-Y049 **Urban History**
 (optional) ⌚ 6 credits 📅 first term 🗣️ English

GEOG-Y066 **History of Migration**
 (optional) ⌚ 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗣️ French

Module 2 - Urban Criminology

GEOG-Y028 **Criminological encounters**
 (optional) ⌚ 6 credits 📅 first and second terms 🗣️ English

GEOG-Y072 **Crime & City**
 (optional) ⌚ 9 credits [personal assignments: 250h] 📅 first term 🗣️ French

Module 3 - Urban Geography

GEOG-Y030 **Economic and Financial Geography**
 (optional) ⌚ 6 credits 📅 second term 🗣️ English

GEOG-Y062 **Housing**
 (optional) ⌚ 3 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗣️ English

GEOG-Y067 **Greening the City**
 (optional) ⌚ 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗣️ French

Module 4 - Urban Architecture

ARCH-H406 (optional) **Post-war history of construction and architecture** | Rika DEVOS (Coordinator)
⌚ 4 credits [lecture: 12h, practical work: 36h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

ARCH-H502 (optional) **Theory of architecture and urbanism** | Ahmed Zaib KHAN MAHSUD (Coordinator)
⌚ 4 credits [lecture: 24h, practical work: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y033 (optional) **Architectural and Construction History**
⌚ 4 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y034 (optional) **Theoretical Reflections on Monument Care**
⌚ 3 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

Module 5 - Urban Planning and Mobility

GEOG-Y035 (optional) **Sustainable Mobility and Logistics** | Joeri VAN MIERLO (Coordinator) and Cathy MACHARIS
⌚ 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y036 (optional) **Land Use Planning and Growth Management**
⌚ 6 credits 📅 second term 🗨 English

URBA-H500 (optional) **Infrastructure and Mobility** | Philippe BOUILLARD (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 12h, field trips: 30h, personal assignments: 30h] 📅 second term 🗨 English

Module 6 - Urban Design I

ARCH-H400 (optional) **Sustainable urban Design Studio** | Ahmed Zaib KHAN MAHSUD (Coordinator) and Hera Van Sande
⌚ 8 credits [workshop: 240h] 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y037 (optional) **Theory of Urban Planning and Design**
⌚ 3 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

One course chosen from the following

PROJ-P4311 (optional) **Projet d'architecture 4.11 : UN - Urban Nature** | Mar Nadia CASABELLA ALVAREZ (Coordinator) and Axel FISHER
⌚ 10 credits [project: 120h] 📅 second term 🗨 English/French

PROJ-P4311 (optional) **Projet d'architecture 4.11 : UN - Urban Nature** | Mar Nadia CASABELLA ALVAREZ (Coordinator) and Axel FISHER
⌚ 10 credits [project: 120h] 📅 first term 🗨 English/French

URBA-P9006 (optional) **Atelier urbanisme - Bruxelles** | Geoffrey Grulois (Coordinator) and Yves ROUYET
⌚ 10 credits [project: 144h] 📅 first term 🗨 French

Module 7 - Urban Design II

GEOG-Y037 (optional) **Theory of Urban Planning and Design**
⌚ 3 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y039 (optional) **Design Studio B option 4022174EN (evening)**
⌚ 15 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English

GEOG-Y063 (optional) **Design Studio B option 4022175EN (day)**
⌚ 15 credits [seminars: 36h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

Module 8 - Internship

GEOG-F432 (optional) **Internship** | Mathieu VAN CRIEKINGEN (Coordinator) and Benjamin WAYENS
⌚ 15 credits [work placement: 450h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English

Autres cours

Au besoin, choisir un ou des cours dans la liste suivante afin d'arriver à un total de 60 crédits, 64 au maximum, moyennant l'approbation du jury



GEOG-Y046 (optional)	History of Urban Design 🕒 3 credits 📅 first term 🗨 English
GEOG-Y047 (optional)	Landscape Urbanism 🕒 3 credits 📅 second term 🗨 English
GEOG-Y064 (optional)	Advanced seminar in Urban studies A 🕒 3 credits [seminars: 24h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English
GEOG-Y065 (optional)	Advanced seminar in Urban studies B 🕒 6 credits [seminars: 48h] 📅 first and second terms 🗨 English
GEOG-Y068 (optional)	Introduction to GIS 🕒 3 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French
GEOG-Y069 (optional)	Decision Support Systems for Sustainability 🕒 6 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨 French
GEOG-Y070 (optional)	Decolonial visions and urban geographies 🕒 5 credits [lecture: 36h] 📅 first term 🗨 French
PROJ-H502 (optional)	Design project competition Philippe BOUILLARD (Coordinator) and Vincent GERIN 🕒 4 credits [seminars: 30h, project: 90h] 📅 second term 🗨 English
SOCA-D455 (optional)	Sociologie des mobilités Pierre LANNOY (Coordinator) 🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨 French Ce cours ne sera pas donné en 2021-2022

Formation complémentaire

Au besoin, choisir un ou des cours dans la liste suivante afin d'arriver à un total de 60 crédits, moyennant l'approbation du jury

One course chosen from the following

TEMP-0000 (optional)	Cours extérieurs au programme 🕒 3 credits 📅 academic year 🗨 French
TEMP-0000 (optional)	Cours extérieurs au programme 🕒 4 credits 📅 academic year 🗨 French
TEMP-0000 (optional)	Cours extérieurs au programme 🕒 5 credits 📅 academic year 🗨 French
TEMP-0000 (optional)	Cours extérieurs au programme 🕒 6 credits 📅 academic year 🗨 French